failing which other telephones of the defaulting subscribers are also disconnected.

3. Incentive is given to staff for ensuring early recovery of outstanding dues.

4. If the above steps do not bring results, recovery suits are field against the defaulters wherever feasible.

5. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited sets annual targets for liquidation of outstanding for its field units and periodically monitors realisation against the targets fixed. Liquidation Boards in each Unit/Circle of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited are functioning to liquidate old outstanding dues.

6. As per recent guidelines framed by BSNL, Cricles have been authorised to utilise the services of the Police, Revenue and other Departments of the State Government, whenever necessary and pay a commission of up to 1.5% of the amount recovered.

Telephone facility in villages of Gujarat

1836. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Gram Panchayats provided with the public phone facility in Gujarat, district-wise;

(b) the number of Gram Panchayats proposed to be provided with such facility by March, 2001;

(c) by when, the said facility is likely to be provided to the remaining Gram Panchayats in the State; and

(d) the steps proposed/being taken to reduce the fault rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Requisite information is enclosed as Statement (*See* below).

(c) The private Basic Telephone Service Licensee in Gujarat has undertaken to provide Public Telephones facility in the remaining Gram Panchayats by 31st December, 2002.

(d) The steps taken to reduce the fault rate include induction of new technologies, formation of District-wise teams for technical inspection and maintenance of telecom facilities in Gram Panchayats (GP), opening of Repairing centres for repair of 2/15 VHF type MARR systems, corrective action for GP telephones showing zero meter reading, replacement of faulty batteries, carrying out daily status checks of base stations.

Statement

District-wise information about Telephone facility in Gram Panchayats of Gujarat

Sl. No.	Name of Telecom Districts	Districts covered	Number of Gram Panchayats	Number of Gram Panchayats with telephone facility	Number of Gram Panchayats without telephone facility
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Ahmedabad	Ahmedabad	640	586	54
2	Gandhinagar	Gandhinagar	70	70	—
3	Amreli	Amreli	585	548	37
4	Bharuch	Bharuch Narmada	712	684	28
5	Bhuj	Kutchchh	604	532	72
6	Bhavnagar	Bhavnagar	774	664	110
7	Godhra	Panchmahal Dahod	1052	839	213
8	Himatnagar	Sabarkantha	673	661	12
9	Jamnagar	Jamnagar	657	604	53
10	Junagadh	Junagadh Porbandar Diu (U.T.)	971	937	34
11	Mehsana	Mehsana Patan	1045	1034	11
12	Nadiad	Kheda Anand	899	899	—
13	Palanpur	Banaskantha	825	809	16
14	Rajkot	Rajkot	840	829	11

1	2	3	4	5	6
15	Surendranagar	Surendranagar	620	620	—
16	Surat	Surat	857	769	88
17	Vadodra	Vadodra	906	773	133
18	Valsad	Valsad Navsari	688	613	75
19	Dang	Dang	70	53	17
20	UT	Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman	22	21	1
	TOTAL:		13510	1254	965

Out of order public telephones

†1837. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that most of the public telephones installed at public places remain out of order;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government porpose to take any steps to improve this service?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Sir, the Public Call Offices (PCOs) installed at public are checked on regular basis and normally these PCOs work satifactorily. In case a PCO gets out of order the fault is rectified.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) To improve the service further, the following steps are being taken:

(i) Providing more number of attended PCOs through Franchise Scheme.

(ii) Replacement of old type of CCB PCOs by CBT-95.

(iii) Regular Inspections

Telephone on demand in Andhra Pradesh

1838. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:
DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.